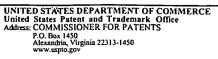


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. SUITE 500, 1737 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

You are hereby notified under 37 CFR 41.202(a)(1) that an applicant is seeking to provoke an interference with your U.S. Patent No. 6,379,708.

The identity of the applicant will not be disclosed unless an interference is declared.

If a final decision is made not to declare an interference, a notice to that effect will be placed in the patent file and will be sent to the patentee.

If an interference is declared, notice thereof will be made under 37 CFR 41.203.

Cecilia Tsang

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TC1600 Interference Practice Specialist

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